Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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Internal code of conduct for members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

1. Introduction

The members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") have been elected to undertake important and specific responsibilities pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"). A high standard of conduct is expected of them in discharging their duties in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and their solemn declaration:

> "I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties as a member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

The present guidelines set ethical standards expected of the members of the Commission. They do not modify or otherwise affect the rights, duties and obligations of the members of the Commission under the Convention.

2. Duty to preserve integrity, independence and impartiality

While the personal views and convictions of the members of the Commission, including their political and religious convictions, remain inviolable, they shall ensure that those views and convictions do not adversely affect their official duties. Members of the Commission shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting their status. They shall not engage in any activity that is incompatible with the proper discharge of their duties. They shall avoid any action and, in particular, any kind of public pronouncement that may adversely reflect on their status, or on the integrity, independence and impartiality that are required by that status.

3. Confidentiality

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and their annex II, each Member shall at all times maintain the confidentiality of the deliberations

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and proceedings of the Commission together with any information identified as confidential. No member shall at any time use such information acquired during such deliberations and proceedings to gain personal advantage or advantage for others.

4. Duty to avoid conflict of interest

Members of the Commission shall not use their knowledge or official functions for private gain, financial or otherwise, or for the gain of any third party, including family, friends and those they favour. Nor shall they use their office for personal reasons to prejudice the positions of those they do not favour.

5. Duty to act independently

In accordance with rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, members of the Commission shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other authority external to the Commission. They shall exercise the utmost discretion in regard to all matters of official business. They shall not communicate to any Government, entity, person or any other source any information known to them by reason of their official position that they know or ought to have known has not been made public, except as appropriate in the normal course of their duties or by the authorization of the Commission. These obligations do not cease upon the cessation of their official functions.

6. Disclaimer

Publication of material on issues related to the work of the Commission and the continental shelf shall require the following disclaimer:

> "The views expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf."